

This letter
Wrote for
June 1922

to the
Museum

21 p p n e u 31
River View
Woodbridge

29. 12. 22

My dear Friend,

Your p.c. brings me
grave news, which I am deeply
sorry to hear; the one cheering word
is "improving". I more than guessed
you were ill, for the old Kinship-spirit
told me, and I knew. For weeks
past you have been constantly
in my mind, and in my prayers.
And now that you are recovering,
I may gladly offer my birthday
greeting - God bless you, now &
ever.

For myself, the Siatica is much
better, for which I am thankful.
For the first time in my 81 years
of life, I ate my Xmas dinner
alone, and for this reason. I had
unfortunately caught a severe cold,

and must needs keep indoors. The east-winds on this coast are bleak and cutting, and the low East Anglian heights are of little use in sheltering. Do not think, however, that I ate my Xmas dinner mournfully, for at 7 o'clock in fluttered the 'Ravens' in the shape of three cheery boys, bringing with them hot and hot, the first cut of the Xmas turkey with all needful accessories.

If my letter tires you in the reading put it on one side, and continue it later, but you are always so good to be interested in the boys.

Rhys, on Monday next, enters upon a new phase of his career. He leaves for a four month's stay in London, which will be spent in the office of a legal firm where he will carry on his studies, and

attend the Courts.

Bill is home on holidays from Oxford. He is quite happy in his College life, and is specialising in Chemistry. He has long been a devout follower of Einstein and his relativity theories, and was delighted to come on his track in Oxford. During our wanderings, Netherside was led to Major Griffiths (an examiner & tutor at Brasenose) for 6 months. Bill was invited to luncheon with them the other Sunday, and learned that Einstein had been their guest on a recent visit to Oxford. They had much talk of the great professor.

Harold is enjoying his holidays, chiefly on the river.

Socially, the three boys spend many evenings in the week with their intimate friends the Ionides, playing ping-pong &c. Some day, I will tell you how

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the acquaintance began, which was rather interesting.

Joan - Hitherto, I have said little or nothing about the little lassie. Seeing that her father was a school-man, I concluded that he would have ideas of his own as to the education of his little girl, and so I took the part of on-looker. All would have gone well with the mother's teaching, had Mabel been able to give the child her devoted attention, but this was impossible with the pressing duties of so large a household. So, a request came to me, asking would I help Joan by giving her morning lessons. I consented - the result has been good. She is a child of remarkable intelligence, and ought to make a very clever woman. I tire for, so will close. With my much love and warm & hearty congratulations for the day - ever affectionately Yours
E. L.

Let me have a p.c. soon to say how you progress.

W. F. was 81

22/pnaus/used

in 1922

River View
Woodbridge
28.5.23.

Dear Miss Kitching

I have not been
unmindful of my promise to tell
you something of the early years
of my dear friend. A day or two
ago, I summoned up courage to
open the pages of the past.

A formidable task lies before
me. I have carefully preserved
every letter of the correspondence
of more than 60 years. From
1862 - 1880 (when she made her
home with me in Bradford), I
never failed to receive a weekly
letter - they number hundreds.
The difficulty of deciphering will
be great, as they are mostly written
upon very thin sheets & the writing
crossed. However, I have, so far

i2p2pneu31.

arranged them into 2 periods representing each phase of the dear life, and hope ere long to be able to read through them.

While writing, I would like to mention (re the parcel) that if sent by post it will be delivered direct - if by rail, would you mind advising me of it beforehand, as we are outside the boundary of delivery. Either way will be right to me, as may suit your convenience - please do not hurry its despatch.

I hope all goes well with your great work - of which I make no doubt.

With my kindest regards

Yours Sincerely
E. Groves

River View
Woodbridge

31.5.23.

Dear Miss Hitching

The parcel has safely arrived. Thank you so much for your kindness & trouble in sending it. The furs are very beautiful, and will be valued high for her dear sake.

The idea of a Memorial Biography is excellent, and will be cherished by all who knew and loved her & will be stimulating to those who knew her not.

In regard to the letters, there may be much that is helpful to your purpose, and to that end, I will see what may be gleaned. At the same time they are of so intimate & personal a character, that much of their contents would hardly be

23p2pne131
suitable for publication. I mean in
this way. As a girl she was ever
spiritually minded, and the letters
reveal the earnest striving of the
soul, for the light, which in after
days she found in full measure.
I feel that you will quite understand

It is pleasant to know that I
may have a chance of seeing you.
I am certain to be at home some
part of your holidays. During
August, I am due for a fortnight's
visit to my daughter at Golder's
Green, the date of which she will
fix, and which I will let you
know later.

Yr. day's post brought me a letter
from a former pupil, who, in the
Bradford school knew Miss Mason well.
She has been greatly interested
in reading the March & April numbers
of the D.R. She writes:-

On thinking of dear Miss Mason
I always remember her enthusiasm,

23p3pneu31
her true culture, and her essential
goodness. One can hardly recognise
in the printed portrait, the Mrs
Mason of old days. I think she must
have been very happy in her
work, and evidently found
her true sphere.

With my kindest regards
and best wishes

Yours very Sincerely
E. Groveham.

24p1pna31

River View
Woodbridge

10.6.23.

Dear Miss Kitching

So many thanks
for your letter and for The P. R. which
told me all I so much wished to
know, and made up for my absence
from the Conference. The speeches
were gratifying.

As regards the Memorial biography
I fully realise your difficulty, and
I will do my best - to lend you
a helping hand. I have before me
a confused mass of partially
dated and undated letters,
which makes the task of selection
difficult. The thought that suggests
itself to my mind is this - to go
through the letters as they lie,
give them an approximate date,
and send to you such pages as

may be useful for your purpose. Even such portions may, on one side contain what is helpful, and on the other side what is irrelevant: (the latter must be for your eyes alone). Do you think this a practical plan?

I had not heard of the death of Mrs. Wynne, who was an intimate friend of Miss Mason's. Her husband was Vicar of St. Marks. Horace, their son, then only a youth, would have but a slight recollection. Other most intimate friends were Mr + Mrs. Gordon of Keaton Rise (now passed away) and their daughter, who still survives as ^{Mrs.} Mrs. John Bacchus, the Old Hall, Glassington; and also Judge Gates + Mrs. Gates.

With my kindest regards

Yours Sincerely
E. Groveham.

15p1pneu31

Wbe
used

River View
Woodbridge

14.6.23.

My dear Miss Kitching, I do not know to what extent you are acquainted with the life and work of my dear friend in Northing. but hope the enclosed letters may be of service.

Miss M's first undertaking was as mistress of the "Davison Infant School" in Northing. This school was said to be the first of its kind in England, and had no sort of connection with the Government. It was chiefly under the control of the Rev - Read (Chapel of Ease) and his daughter, Miss Read. At that time, there was no provision (anywhere) for the education of the daughters of the

25p2pncv3L

middle class, beyond private
schools. To meet an urgent need,
Miss M. became the pioneer of a
new movement, by establishing
a "Girls' Middle School" in connec-
tion with the Infant School. Of
this, you will be able to gather
interesting particulars from her
letters.

Her two closest friends in Nottingham
were Miss Brandreth & Miss Read.
Miss M. found a double interest
in her friendship with Miss
Brandreth on account of the three
delightfulⁿ children^{an} who shared
her home: (Tom, Sam & Harrie)

They were the children of Mr.
Arthur Brandreth, Secretary to
Lord Lawrence, with whom
he shared the dangers & horrors
of the "Indian Mutiny".^{no}

3
written by my dear friend, in
December 1861.

The present packet does not, by
any means, exhaust the
letters of the Worthing period &
which will, I hope, be followed
by others relating to Otter &
Bradford.

What I set great store upon are
the Sunday letters - precious and
numerous - and who knows,
but they may find an echo
in your Sunday afternoon
gatherings, where "She, being
dead yet speaketh".

With my sincerest regards

I am

Yours in sympathy
E. Graham.

25p4pneu31

How the work of the School progressed, the letters will tell. Should there be any point on which you would like fuller information, do not hesitate to question me.

I shall continue my "research", which, however, will occupy much time as the whole of the remaining mass is almost illegible. Fortunately, those already selected were clearly written.

For your purpose, make whatever use you please, and afterwards, destroy them.

Seeing that you draw your information from Miss M's. own words, there will be no need to mention my name. Should the necessity arise, in these or in later letters - I am
E. E.

For yourself personally, I send a copy of verse, from my Album.

1 "I am all alone here: there is no one ^{J. S. P. M. 21}
with whom I can seek that sympathy
which is such a craving of my
nature. I live within 5 minutes' walk
of the Sea, and yet until this evening
I have not even been there. I had
no one to go with, and could not
summon courage to venture alone
in a place so strange to me. This
evening, however, old Mrs. R. took
the matter in hand, and after a great
deal of persuasion, succeeded in
getting me to try the experiment.
I got into a retired part of the beach,
and stood - watching the Sea, half-
inclined to cry, half inclined to
laugh, and more than half inclined
to scream with a strange wild joy,
and throw myself in, and join
with the mad gambols of the
waters waves. Oh! it was grand
to watch the vast thing, the
view bounded only by the darkness
of the horizon, where the Green Sea
and the Blue Sky melted into one.
There it lay, its great bosom seeming
to be ever heaving & swelling with

1861 Thank you very much ^{25p9 pneuz} for your
advice respecting my studies;
I will try to follow it as closely as
possible; though, as you will easily
believe, studying for a Certificate,
after a hard day's teaching is not
without its difficulties. With one
hour's intermission, I teach from 9 till 4.
But yet, I am happy in the work &
should not let its being hard, prove
a hindrance to me. I have some very
sweet characters among my children,
some, that I love much already. ?
One pretty general feature is strict
honesty & uncompromising faith-
fulness. Is not that encouraging?
I have heard from Miss W. that
Certificates are to become honorary
& ever so many other changes.
Is it all true?

Fancy! I have been here four
weeks to-day"

15ppm21
X Deep emotions of gratitude & love
to Him who made it what it is,
with its endless hymn of praise
to its great Creator, from the depths
of its mighty heart, and filling
the air with its deep strong cadences -
"What are the wild waves saying?"
I cannot tell you how passionately,
how intensely I love the Sea.
This evening, when I first saw
the great boundless expanse of
waters, and heard the rushing
of the waves, I felt my heart beat
and my whole being stirred, as
if - I do not know "as if" what,
for I do not know of anything
else that could have had just
the same effect. I never look upon
it as a mass of insensate matter,
but as something having a grand,
sublime existence, nearer & akin
to the all-pervading Spirit-essence
of the God-head, than any other of
His creatures. I believe, that were
I left to follow the dictates of

25p8pnu431
my own heart, I should worship
not the Sun, nor any of the heavenly
bodies, nor yet any of the ^{teeming} offspring
of earth, but the mighty Sea would be the
idol of my heart. But as it is,
it performs a nobler, holier
office for me. It is one of "the
ministers of His, that do His
pleasure." It is a mighty and
eloquent preacher telling of
the wondrous power & Majesty
of its God, and making me
feel my own exceeding impotence
and insignificance."

2599/11/13/31

Sunday. Mr. Huston wrote to me the other day, and in his letter was the following excellent & beautiful advice: "Choose no friends but those whose society you would wish to enjoy through Eternity. Is it not a beautiful thought? The business of making that eternity a happy one belongs to ourselves and under God to each other. I fancy that the intercessory prayers of our Saviour were meant to teach us amongst other things, that our prayers for each other avail much with God."

"I believe, for spiritual growth, I would rather receive affliction than blessings & the latter bring so many temptations with them. But there all things work together for good to them that love God."

"We had a sermon to-night on 1 Cor. 13. 9. 'eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.' I always thought the passage referred to the joy of a future state, but the clergyman who preached to-night proved from the context & from the context of the passage from which it is

given (2.64-4) that this language ^{25 p 10 p 21} is
used to denote only those joys which
godliness will bring to its possession in
this present life. What then must be
the "exceeding eternal weight of glory"?

14. Piccadilly.

Bradford.

16th July 1923

Dear Miss Kitching

Many thanks for
letting me know about
the Memorial Stone.
There can be no question
as to who is entitled to
the privilege of seeing to
this, - & I am sure
no one will wish to
interfere. If I may
say so, what you propose
strikes me as being in
all ways of the ~~most~~
most appropriate tone
& feeling.

Yours sincerely
Wm. B. Gordon

17plpneu23

River View
Woodbridge
31.1.24

My dear Miss Kitching

The enclosed photo.
is an earlier one than those you
already have; it was taken
during my dear friends' early
days in Worthing. You may
like to have it copied. Please
keep it as long as you may
need it, but I shall be glad
to have it returned later.

In reading over "In Memoriam"
I noticed in the "Beginning
of Things", on page 120, that
the date given for the commence-
ment of Miss M^r's work in
Worthing is 1863, instead of
the Spring of 1861.

I spent the Christmas of 1861.

with her, and well remember
how she came home from
Church on the Sunday morning
looking very sorrowful, and
said "I have sad news - the
death of the Prince Consort."

I hope all has gone well
with the year's work (which
I do not doubt) and that
the New Year gives promise
of equal Success.

With love and every good
wish

Yours affectionately

E. Foulham

COPY.

18pneu31

River View,
Woodbridge.
7. 5 . 24.

My dear Miss Kitching,

As regards family ties. Miss Mason's position was unique. From herself I understood that both her parents were only children, of whom she was the only child. If corroboration were needed, it would lie in the fact, that during her period of training, her holidays were spent in College as she had no relations. Later, while carrying on her work in Worthing, her spare time was divided between myself, Mrs Coleman and Mrs. Fleming.

With my much Love,

Yours affectionately,

E. Groveham.

i91pneu31
River View ^{used}
Woodbridge

18.5.24

My dear Miss Kilching

In connection with our dear Friends' father there is one statement which calls for serious consideration, and perhaps for re-adjustment. It is this:— "He was ruined by the American Civil War".

As a matter of fact, this great struggle did not actually begin until 1861, in which year Miss Mason began her work in Northampton. The probability is, that before that date commercial relations between England & America were seriously affected. It might be more in accordance with known facts to put the statement in some such form as this:—

i9p2pneu31

"The political condition of
the United States, which led
up to the Civil War, brought
upon her father heavy
financial losses."

You may find some better
form of expression. I only
suggest, but thought it as
well to call your attention
to the matter before committing
it to "The Life".

Busy as you are - please
do not trouble to reply.

With very much love,

Yours affectionately

E. Groverham.